

SPECIFICATIONS AMENDMENTS

On page 1, line 1, please amend the title as follows:

-- MODULAR BASAL THUMB JOINT IMPLANT --.

On page 1, between lines 1 and 2, insert this paragraph:

-- This is a divisional of application No. 09/352,472 filed on July 14, 1999 A.D. --.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 8-9, as follows:

-- The stem 20 generally includes ~~intramedullary~~ intramedullary spike 21 may taper from the head 10 to its end distal from the head 10. See, FIGS. 1-8 & 10-13. Thus, among other advantages, the implant 100 may be pressed into place in the metacarpal bone. The stem 20 may be roughened, say, as by sand-blasting with glass bead BT-Number-12. In addition to or in lieu of the sand-blasting, the pore-coating 13 may be applied, especially about the more proximally directed portions of the stem 20. See, FIGS. 10 & 11. The stem/spike 20/21 may have a general angle 22 of attachment to the head which is acute, for instance, about from sixty-five to seventy-five, say, about seventy, degrees in relation to the truncation 12 of the head 10, which may yield complementary angle 22c. The stem/spike 20/21 may have a flanged cross-sectional stem profile. For example, the flanged stem profile may have a tri-flanged cross section such as provided by being generally T-shaped, especially about its more proximal positions. See, e.g., FIG. 5. The flanged stem profile may taper to a more generally triagonally shaped cross-section, especially about its more distal positions. See, e.g., FIG. 6. Accordingly, the spike 21, which may be termed an

intracarpal spike-like stem or appendage, can taper toward its distal end, for example, at half angle 21a as follows: 13-mm and 14-mm sizes, 10-degree half angle; 16-mm size, 12-degree half angle; 17.5-mm and 19-mm sizes, 13-degree half angle. Thus, not only can the stem 20 be readily inserted into the digital bone stock which can be more easily prepared to receive such a shape and conserve bone in the procedure but also the flanges can more strongly hold the stem in the bone. The stem/spike 20/21 may be inwardly curved with concave 23 and/or convex 24 components, and/or have an eccentric attachment site, offset from the center of the head 10. See, e.g., FIGS. 1, 4, 7, 10 & 12. Preferably, however, the basal thumb implant 100 generally includes all of such features. Thus, anatomical cooperation and normal functioning can better ensue. --.